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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 14214 171446Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-07 CEA-01 STRE-00 ITC-01 /094 W
----------122305 171458Z /44/44
R 161044Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0154
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, ASEAN, RP
SUBJECT: ASEAN MINISTERIAL: PRELIMINARY GOP REACTION

SUMMARY: DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER VALDEPENAS, AMONG FIRST OF PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS ATTENDING US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL TO RETURN TO MANILA, CONSIDERS WASHINGTON MEETINGS "VERY PRODUCTIVE." VALDEPENAS BELIEVES A TRUE MEASURE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETING MUST AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE U.S. ECONOMIC MISSIONS SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS YEAR AND THE ARTICULATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AID PROJECTS WHICH WERE DISCUSSED.

1. DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER VICENTE VALDEPENAS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE CONSIDERS ASEAN MINISTERIAL "85 TO 95 PERCENT SUCCESSFUL" AND A "BREAKTHROUGH" IN US-ASEAN RELATIONS. VALDEPENAS BELIEVES TIMING OF MEETING WAS
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PAGE 02 MANILA 14214 171446Z

UNFORTUNATE IN THAT USG ECONOMIC OFFICIALS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ARE CURRENTLY PREOCCUPIED BY DOMESTIC ISSUES, PRIMARILY INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT. THUS, UNITED STATES WAS NOT RPT IN MOOD PSYCOLOGICALLY TO GIVE ASEAN TIES FULL ATTENTION.

2. VALDEPENAS COMMENTED THAT U.S. PREOCCUPATION WITH

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

INTERNAL AFFAIRS WAS PROBABLY UNAVOIDABLE AND THAT ASEAN LEADERS HAD MUCH APPRECIATED ACCESS TO PRES. CARTER, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AS WELL AS SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY AND OTHER DEPARTMENT HEADS. ASEAN NATIONS ALSO UNDERSTAND, HE SAID, THAT U.S. WISHES TO SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION WITHOUT REKINDLING SUPER-POWER RIVALRIES IN EAST ASIA.

3. VALDEPENAS BELIEVES MOST IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MINISTERIAL WERE 1) CANDID EXCHANGES WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN HIGH OFFICIALS AND CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WHICH WERE THEREBY OPENED AND 2) U.S. COMMITMENT IN PRINCIPAL TO THE COMMON FUND, AN AREA WHERE ASEAN CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE (REPORTED SEPTEL)- HE WAS ALSO PLEASED WITH PROGRESS MADE ON TRADE ISSUES: A BREAKTHROUGH WAS ACHIEVED IN US/RP BILATERAL TALKS (REPORTED SEPTEL) AND THE US PROMISED TO LOOK INTO METHODS OF EXTENDING GSP COVERAGE.

4. VALDEPENAS' REMARKS WERE GENERALLY UPBEAT AND HE CONCLUDED THAT MINISTERIAL WAS "VERY PRODUCTIVE" TRUE MEASURE OF SUCCESS, HOWEVER, WILL BE IN FOLLOW-UP BY VARIOUS U.S. MISSIONS WHICH WILL VISIT ASEAN AND IN ARTICULATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE MINISTERIAL WAS A SNOWBALL, HE SAID, WHICH WE HOPE IS NOW ROLLING DOWN HILL. MURPHY
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Subject: ASEAN MINISTERIAL: PRELIMINARY GOP REACTION SUMMARY: DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER VALDEPENAS, AMONG FIRST OF PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS ATTENDING US-ASEAN MINISTE
TAGS: ETRD, RP, ASEAN
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20 Mar 2014
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